

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5

**SYSTEM FOR SUPPORTING BOTH SERIAL AND PARALLEL STORAGE DEVICES  
ON A CONNECTOR**

A method and system that permit a modular computer and a data storage device to interface through common pins whether the data storage device is a parallel or serial device. The serial data lines and some of the parallel data lines from the computer are routed through a switching circuit to common pins at the interface, which is attached to the data storage device. If data from the computer is sent in parallel form through parallel data lines to a parallel storage device, most of the parallel data lines are connected to dedicated parallel pin connectors, while the remainder of the parallel data lines are routed through the switching circuit to common interface pins. If the storage device is a serial device, the switching circuit sends the serial data from the computer to the serial data storage device via the common interface pins.

CONFIDENTIAL